

**“Bringing these federal funds home to our Valley is critical to protecting farmers and our economy,” said Costa. “Without fast action, the moths could spread and result in significant crop losses. These funds will allow our farmers to fight these moths in time for the summer harvest.”**

Costa coordinated with the Administration, local agricultural leaders and farmers to secure this critical assistance.

**“When grapevine moths were found in our Valley, we took our message straight to the Administration,” said Costa. “We fought to provide our farmers with the tools to fight this pest and our efforts delivered results. I am pleased that the USDA recognized the need to move quickly, and I commend NRCS and APHIS for working with us to provide immediate assistance. I will continue to push the Administration to work with our farmers and agriculture commissioners to protect our agriculture industry from this pest.”**

Farmers can use the funds, distributed at a 50/50 cost share, to implement pest management techniques in areas affected by the moth. The funds were made available through the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Highest priority will be given to helping grape growers with vineyards that lie within 400 meters of a confirmed trapping of the grapevine moth in Fresno, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. Second priority will be given to treat vineyards that are between 400-1000 meters of a moth trapped in all quarantined counties except Napa (Fresno, Mendocino, Merced, Solano, and Sonoma).

Yesterday, Costa announced \$1.75 million in funding to combat the grapevine moth through the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS has already provided \$3 million in Farm Bill and Agency contingency funds to the effort. Combined with today’s NRCS funding, over \$5 million has been allocated for farmers to fight the moth.

### Background

The European grapevine moth is found in Europe, the Mediterranean, southern Russia, Japan, the Middle East, Near East and northern and western Africa. Since 1986, surveys for this pest have been conducted throughout the United States without detections. However, in the fall of 2009, the grapevine moth was found in California, its first detection both in the United States and North America

Applications will be taken at NRCS offices in the affected counties beginning today <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA>. Sign-ups will continue until June 23, 2010.